

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EGEN, PK
SUBJECT: COUNCIL OF ADVISORS MEETING (APRIL 5) DECISIONS

1. IN A MEETING ON APRIL 5. THE COUNCIL OF ADVISORS
HEADED BY CMLA GENERAL ZIA DECIDED TO INITIATE A HIGH
LEVEL COMMITTEE REVIEW OF THE EXISTING AGRICULTURAL
REVENUE ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM AND A REVISED MINIMUM
PROCUREMENT PRICE FOR RICE. IT ALSO REVIEWED PROCUREMENT
PRICES FOR OTHER CROPS BUT DECIDED TO LEAVE THEM AS THEY ARE.

2. IN ITS REVIEW, THE HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE IS TO
EXAMINE THE SYSTEM OF AGRICULTURAL REVENUE ADMINISTRATION
IN THE COUNTRY AND TO RECOMMEND WITHIN 30 DAYS MEASURES
TO "STREAMLINE AND STRENGTHEN" ITS WORKING AND ORGANIZATION.
THE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES THE FEDERAL
SECRETARIES FOR PLANNING, FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND THE
PROVINCIAL CHIEF SECRETARIES.

3. THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO RAISE PROCUREMENT PRICES
FOR MILLED RICE IN AN EFFORT TO INCREASE EXPORT SUPPLIES.
THE MILLS ARE REQUIRED TO SELL MOST OF THEIR EXPORT
QUALITY OUTPUT TO THE RICE EXPORT CORPORATION. HOWEVER,
BECAUSE OF THE HIGH OPEN MARKET RICE PRICES WITHIN
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PAKISTAN, MILLERS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN PRODUCING
RICE OF LESS THAN EXPORT QUALITY TO AVOID SELLING TO
THE GOVERNMENT. THE NEW PRICES SHOULD SOMEWHAT ALLEVIATE
THIS SITUATION AND INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF RICE,
PARTICULARLY THE HIGHER PRICED BASMATI VARIETY, FOR
EXPORT. THE NEW PRICES FOR MILLED RICE ARE:

IRRI-6 (FAIR AVERAGE QUALITY):

RS.49 PER MAUND, UP 6.5 PERCENT;

IRRI-6 (SUPERIOR QUALITY):

RS. 56 PER MAUND, UP 3.7 PERCENT;

BASMATI: RS. 110 PER MAUND, UP 15.8 PERCENT.

4. PADDY (UNMILLED RICE) PRICES WERE UNCHANGED FOR THE IRRI-6 VARIETY (30 RS. PER MAUND) BUT INCREASED 15.3 PERCENT FOR BASMATI (60 RS. PER MAUND) TO ENCOURAGE PRODUCTION OF THE LATTER. THE INCREASE IN MILLED AND PADDY BASMATI PRICES ARE ALMOST IDENTICAL, THUS THE BENEFITS OF THE PRICE RISE SHOULD BE PASSED ON TO THE GROWERS.

5. PRICES FOR WHEAT, WHICH WERE RUMORED TO BE INCREASED, REMAINED UNCHANGED AT 37 RS. PER MAUND. ON APRIL 9, GENERAL ZIA STATED THAT PROCUREMENT PRICES FOR WHEAT WOULD NOT NOW BE RAISED SINCE THIS WOULD "AFFECT ALL SPHERES OF LIFE". IMPLICATIONS OF RECENT MOVES IN WHEAT POLICY FOLLOW SEPTTEL. HUMMEL

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